

Remarks

Claims 15 - 27 and 34 - 36 are pending. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The subject invention pertains to improved adhesives prepared by emulsion polymerization. The prior art teaches that large amounts of emulsifiers are necessary in emulsion adhesives to improve the adhesion to polymer surfaces. For example, JP-A-07-068504, which issued from JP-A-02-084483, teaches that 14 - 30% by weight of emulsifier, a very large amount, is necessary. Applicants have surprisingly found, however, that large amounts of emulsifier lower the setting rate of aqueous dispersions of the adhesive, and lower cohesive strength as well. Unexpectedly, small amounts of emulsifier, preferably 0.6 to 1.5%, have been found to increase adhesion while having little effect on either the setting rate or the cohesion.

Claims 15 and 17 have been amended to place these claims in full accordance with 35 U.S.C. § 112. In claim 15, a coma has been added to delineate the monomer classes to which the Examiner referred. Claim 17 has been amended to correct the typographical error of “0-05” to “0.05”. Support for this end of the range may be found in the specification at line 11 of page 3. Withdrawal of the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112 is solicited.

Claim 15 has also been amended to recite that the amount of emulsifier is from 0.6 to 1.5 weight percent, a range which provides especially beneficial results. Support may be found on page 8, line 22 of the specification. Claim 15 has also been amended to recite the solids content of the dispersion, 20 - 75%, support for which may be found in the specification at page 8, line 19.

Claims 28 - 33 have been cancelled and the traversal of the restriction requirement is waived. New claims 34 - 36 have been added to distinctly claim certain

preferred embodiments of Applicants' invention. Claims 32 recites that the solids content of the dispersion is in the range of about 55% (used in all the Examples) to about 75% (page 8). Claim 33 restricts the solids content to about 55%, while claim 34 requires that the optional spray drying step be performed, resulting in a solid, redispersible polymer powder. None of the amendments nor the new claims raise any issue of new matter. As a result of the amendments to claim 15, claim 23 has been amended to depend from claim 16.

Claims 15 - 27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Soeda JP-A-02-084483, abstract ("Soeda"). The abstract does not disclose a solids content of 20 - 75 weight percent as required by claim 15, the broadest claim as amended, nor does it disclose an amount of emulsifier from 0.6 to 1.5 weight percent. Thus, the claims as amended are not anticipated by *Soeda*, and withdrawal of the rejection is solicited.

However, the language of the abstract is far from clear, and a translation of the examined application derived from JP-A-02-084483 (copy attached), does not recite 2 - 30% emulsifier, but 14 - 30% emulsifier. It also appears that the emulsion polymer is not used alone, but is only used in conjunction with an acrylic resin emulsion and a rosin emulsion. In view of these substantial differences between the language of the abstract and the translation of the granted patent, it is respectfully requested that if the rejection is maintained, a translation of the priority document be supplied to Applicants.

Applicants further note that the abstract does not disclose the additional limitations present in claims 16 - 20 and 23 - 27, and the rejection of these claims over the abstract under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) must be withdrawn for this reason.

Applicants submit that the claims are now in condition for Allowance, and respectfully request a Notice to that effect. If the Examiner believes that further discussion will advance the prosecution of the Application, the Examiner is highly encouraged to telephone Applicants' attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,
THOMAS KOHLER ET AL.

By 
Michael S. Brodbine
Reg. No. 38,392
Attorney/Agent for Applicant

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BROOKS KUSHMAN P.C.
1000 Town Center, 22nd Floor
Southfield, MI 48075-1238
Phone: 248-358-4400
Fax: 248-358-3351

Enclosure: Copy of English Translation of JP-A-07-68504